

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is requested. Claims 33-36 are now in the case. Claim 33 has been amended. No new matter has been added.

Applicants reserve the right to prosecute claims to canceled subject matter in one or more continuing applications.

Claim 33 has been amended to recite an antibody that specifically binds to an epitope of a polypeptide consisting of a sequence of amino acid residues as shown in SEQ ID NO:2 from residue 235 to residue 345, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody or a single-chain antibody. Support for amended claim 33 is found within the specification as filed, such as at pages 54, 55, and elsewhere. Production of monoclonal and single-chain antibodies with the recited specificity is neither taught nor suggested by Ferrara et al., taken either alone or in combination with Ladner et al. Hence, the amended claims are believed to be patentable over the art of record.

Claims 33, 34, and 36 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Ferrara et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,391,311 B1. The Office maintains that, given Ferrara's teaching, one would obtain antibodies within the metes and bounds of the claims.

Applicants believe that this rejection is overcome by the amendment of claim 33. Monoclonal antibodies are highly specific antibodies that are produced by hybridomas, which are cloned to produce "monoclonal" cell lines. The resulting cell line secretes a single antibody (i.e., a single specificity). Thus, a monoclonal antibody is prepared free from other antibodies (although it can later be combined with other monoclonal antibodies to produce a mixture). See, Academic Press Dictionary of Science and Technology, Academic Press, 1992 ("a homogeneous antibody that is produced by a clone of antibody-forming cells and that binds with a single antigenic determinant"). Ferrara does not direct one skilled in the art to the recited region of VEGF-E and therefore does not teach or suggest the recited monoclonal antibodies. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC 102(e) are requested.

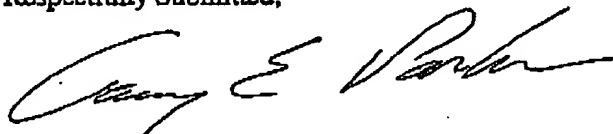
Claim 35 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Ferrara et al. in view of Ladner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,946,778) for reasons of record.

Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection. Single-chain antibodies are genetically engineered antibody fragments with a defined specificity. Ladner et al. teaches that "heavy and light (H and L) polypeptide chains from the variable region of a given antibody" are converted into a single polypeptide chain by the application of a computer-based method of selecting linkers (column 7, lines 8-16; emphasis added). See also, column 29, lines 63-65 ("The specificity of the antibody to

be engineered will be determined by the original selection process."'). Thus, as taught by Ladner et al., one must first select an antibody of a certain specificity. The resulting single-chain antibody will be free from other antibodies. Neither Ferrara et al. nor Ladner et al. teaches the selection of an antibody that specifically binds to an epitope of a polypeptide consisting of a sequence of amino acid residues as shown in SEQ ID NO:2 from residue 235 to residue 345. Claim 35 is therefore patentable over the combined references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC 103(a) are requested.

Applicants believe that each rejection has been addressed and overcome. Reconsideration of the application and its allowance are requested. If for any reason the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (206) 442-6673.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Enclosures:

Amendment Fee Transmittal (in duplicate)
1 Reference
Postcard

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